

10 November 1983

NOTE FOR: Eugene Yeates

SUBJECT: Gen. Tice Recalled to Head Task Force (article attached)

I spoke with CMDR Roger Pitkin, USN/OSD/Legislative Affairs about the attached article. In somewhat muted tones he confided that the nomination of LTG Tice (USA Ret) did not necessarily imply a substantially higher level of DoD assistance to the narcotics effort. He stated that DoD wanted an individual at Tice's level to coordinate the several disparate service efforts already being carried out. He was careful to add, however, that dependent on General Tice's perception of the problem additional DoD support was not to be ruled out.

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Attachment: As stated

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Gen. Tice Recalled to Head Task Force

By TOM PHILPOTT
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — With the Defense Department becoming in-

creasingly involved in the federal effort to curb illegal drug traffic into the United States, President Reagan has nominated a three-star Army general to return to active duty and coordinate the

DoD's assistance program.

If the Senate confirms his nomination to the post, Lt. Gen. R. Dean Tice will become the first director of the Defense Department Task Force on Drug Enforcement.

Tice, 55, retired August 31 after more than 37 years of active duty, his last four as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel and Force Management.

As director of the new DoD task force, Tice will coordinate all DoD military assistance to other federal agencies — including the Coast Guard — in their battle against drug traffickers. The overall federal drug enforcement effort is directed by Vice President George Bush, who serves as chairman of the National Narcotics Board, Interdiction System.

In FY '83, the DoD services provided about \$6.5 million worth of aviation support to federal law enforcement agencies involved in fighting drug smuggling in the South Florida area. The services did not seek reimbursement for these costs because the surveillance missions are considered training and readiness-related. The FY '84 Defense Authorization Act allows the Navy alone over the next 12 months to commit up to \$10 million in flying hours to training flights in drug enforcement areas, officials said.

DoD also dedicated a second aerostat radar balloon facility in Florida this month, which will be used to detect suspicious low-flying aircraft entering the state unnoticed. Officials estimate that it costs the Air Force about \$3.2 million a year to operate and maintain each balloon site. But they quickly add that the balloons serve a military purpose by increasing air security along the Florida coast.

Army Lt. Col. Robert S. Lockwood, who will serve as Tice's deputy, said the second radar balloon at Cape Canaveral, "if effectively used, can virtually seal the Florida coastline" against drug smugglers.

Army Lt. Col. Robert S. Lockwood, Tice's deputy, said DoD military assistance to drug enforcement agencies probably will increase in light of the growing number of drug enforcement task forces being set up around the country. The panel, he said, will assure that military assistance plans used in this effort "are entirely in compliance with the law and legislative intent and in compliance with administration policy."

Tice will report to Lawrence J. Korb, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower, Reserve Affairs and Logistics. The appointment would be for one year. At that point the position will be re-evaluated, said Jerry Calhoun, Korb's principal deputy.

Calhoun said Defense now provides a wide range of support to a number of federal agencies involved in drug enforcement. "Tice, we feel, can cut across every level. He has demonstrated the ability to work with Congress, interface with other agencies and work well within the Defense De-